



Rock Talk

The Official Newsletter of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds

President's Message



Musings, Updates, and More from Club President - Judith Birx

Fellow members of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds,
Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 11th 2021 at 7:00pm.

The meeting will be held following the latest CDC Guidelines. See below.

It's that time again!
The Gem Show is just around the corner! We have started our planning!
We as a board have created a Gem Show committee!
This past week we meet as at the senior center to send our dealer applications out.
We mailed upwards of 78 dealer applications for our show.
If you are interested in renting space at our show contact Ralph ASAP!

It saddens me to inform everyone that the virus has kicked back into action.
The CDC has recommended that we wear our masks again even if we are vaccinated.

Since we are following the CDC guidelines we will be requiring our members to wear their masks at the next club meeting!

We view this as a temporary situation.
We will take this one step at a time.

As always, we are following the current guidelines for the safety of all of us!

This Month's Roundup of Stories

- President's Message
- Secretary's Report
- Hot Pink Tourmalines
- Time Crystals
- Weird Fossil
- Bench Tips

We will be setting up two polishing machines at our next meeting. No trim saw set up. There will be members ready to assist you with instructions and rules you must follow before, during, and after the the use of these machines. Machines will be set up 6 feet apart for social distancing, and masks must be worn.

YOU MUST COME EARLY TO USE THE MACHINES! SOMEONE WILL BE THERE AT 5:30PM TO START THE SET UP!

We will be having our 50/50 at the next meeting and I do want to express that the 50/50 is a way for our club to increase club funds as well as yours! So, be sure to play!!

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me, Judith Birx, at 352-587-1702.

I want to thank you for your support!

Hope to see you at the next Meeting!

President Judith Birx

Secretary's Report

Minutes and More from Club Secretary - Melodye Steverson

Withlacoochee Rockhounds Monthly Meeting

Date 7/14/2021

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Mark Moore at 7pm.

We all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

There were 2 new member to recognize; Michael & Marilyn Reynolds.

There was 1 guest in attendance; Don Rocha.

Leslie Moore made a motion to accept the minutes of our June meeting as printed in the newsletter, Pat Gould seconded. Passed by all members.

Treasurer Janet Wheeler arrived later and gave the Treasurer's report at that time.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Lauren Bell gave the Field Trip report: She had gone to Arkansas for Quartz Crystals and to Llano, Texas where she got Llanolite from a road cut. She said the locals call it "Rockhound Paradise". Lauren said there were some digs coming up in Georgia and she would let the club members know.

Roberta Oldread made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ralph Barber seconded, passed by all.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson.



Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Date 7/27/2021

Attending Board members; Judith Birx, Melodye Steverson, Janet Wheeler, Ralph Barber, Ginny Steverson, Lynn Walters and Michael Steverson.

Board meeting started at 7pm and was held via the Internet on Zoom.

President Judith Birx had distributed the meeting agenda via Email. She stated this meeting would be primarily about our Annual Gem Show.

OLD BUSINESS

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the vendor tables at the Gem Show including: number of tables needed, placement of tables and spacing for social distancing. Ralph Barber is in charge of set-up and assured us that he had this all planned out.

President Birx stated we need to mail out the vendor applications ASAP. It was decided that Michael and Melodye Steverson would re-vamp the Vendor Information letter and the Vendor Application, and make copies to send out. Then the Board would meet at the Senior Center on Tuesday, August 3rd to stuff envelopes and get these applications mailed out.

NEW BUSINESS

Webmaster Michael Steverson informed the Board that the company that hosts the club website has changed their policy regarding the club's email address and will now be charging us \$29 per year to offer this service. He asked for permission to agree to the charge. The Board agreed to the charge.

Our next Board meeting will be on August 17, 2021 at 6:30pm, on ZOOM.

The meeting ended at 7:21pm.

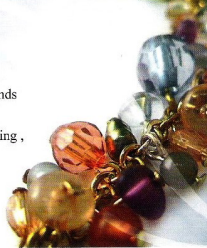
Respectfully submitted by Secretary Melodye Steverson

Rockhounds Advertisers

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Judith Bix
Member of Withlacoochee Rockhounds
Judithbix@hotmail.com
Natural Stone Jewelry, Wire Wrapping,
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352-587-1702



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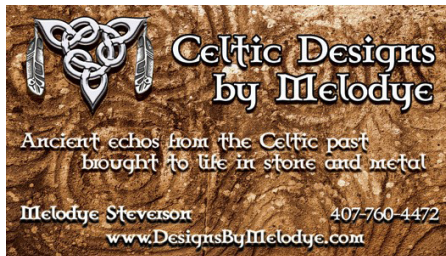
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Facebook.com/MadHouseMindWorks
www.MadHouseMindWorks.etsy.com

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KELLY JOHNSON

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... Yes I buy collections, lapidary equipment, etc...

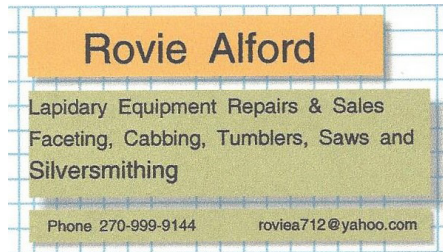
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Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost for non-club members to advertise their businesses in
Rock Talk is \$10.00 per month.

Contact Michael Stevenson to set up an ad in both the newsletter and
the club website. It will benefit both
your business and our club.

If you ad has a web address, or Etsy shop address, I have linked to it.

Advertisers Are Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the Rock Talk and our website.

The monthly income from these ads is beneficial to the club.

Both the Rock Talk and our website have more exposure than only club members.

Contact club treasurer Janet Wheeler: ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com or
send to:

Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634 Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Hot Pink Tourmalines, Kunzites & Fossils

Ooooo...shiny!

At the famous Balboa Park in San Diego, just south of the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society & Museum, is the San Diego Natural History Museum (SDNHM) — or the Nat as the locals call it. SDNHM is one of the most significant natural history museums in the country.

The San Diego Society of Natural History dates to 1874. In 1917, the society purchased a vacant building from the 1915 Panama-California Exposition. Later, a new building was commissioned to architect William Templeton Johnson to fit the museum's expanding needs, and the new museum opened in 1933. It served visitors for decades, before undergoing a significant renovation. In 2001, after a nine-year and \$38 million capital campaign, the museum reopened its doors. The major renovation added 90,000 square feet, more than doubling the museum's size.

The famous pink elbaite tourmalines and green and blue tourmalines on display are from San Diego County's pegmatite mines. The Pala Gem district, near the town of Pala, is also renowned for its other pegmatite minerals - quartz, feldspar, garnet, lepidolite, morganite, aquamarine, kunzite, and other rare minerals.

This is an excerpted portion of the article.

Read the entire article here at RockAndGem.com

An Area Rich With Mining History



Google's 'time crystals' could be the greatest scientific achievement of our lifetimes

Maybe they can be wire-wrapped!

Eureka! A research team featuring dozens of scientists working in partnership with Google's quantum computing labs may have created the world's first time crystal inside a quantum computer.

This is the kind of news that makes me want to jump up and do a happy dance.

These scientists may have produced an entirely *new phase of matter*. I'm going to do my best to explain what that means and why I personally believe this is the most important scientific breakthrough in our lifetimes.

What's a time crystal?

In colloquial terms, it's a big screw you to Sir Isaac Newton.

Time crystals are a new phase of matter. For the sake of simplicity, let's imagine a cube of ice.

Time crystals are a new phase of matter. For the sake of simplicity, let's imagine a cube of ice.

When you put a cube of ice in glass of water, you're introducing two separate entities (the ice cube and the liquid water) to each other at two different temperatures.

Everyone knows that the water will get colder (that's why we put the ice in there) and, over time, the ice will get warmer and turn into water. Eventually you'll just have a glass of room-temperature water.

Read the entire article here at [TheNextWeb.com](https://thenextweb.com)

*They can be in a state of
having eaten the whole
cake, and then cycle right
back to a state of still
having the cake*



Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Form 2021

Annual Dues: New individual member, \$25.00. Under 18 years of age, \$5.00. No charge for paid 2020 members who are renewing for 2021. Returning members from 2019, \$20.00 (\$5.00 discount) for 2021 membership

☐

Check if returning member

☐

Check if current member
with change of information

☐

Check if new member

☐

Check if under 18

Please Print Clearly

Last name

First Name

Street Address:

City

State

ZIP

Phone Number (s)

Email address:

You may now fill in the fields on this form if you are viewing it on your computer or tablet.
Each field may be clicked on and then you may type in your information.
You will still need to print out the form, but your added information should show on the

Give this completed form along with your check for dues made out to "Withlacoochee Rockhounds" to club secretary Janet Wheeler at a club meeting. Or mail the form and your check to:

Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Renewing 2020 members : No charge for 2021 membership. Please fill out form and give it to club secretary Janet Wheeler or send it to the above address.

2021

Stones Hint at Possible 600-Mile Dinosaur Migration From Wisconsin to Wyoming

A prehistoric rock tumbler!

A group of polished, ancient stones found in Wyoming may have been carried more than 600 miles in the huge bellies of plant-eating dinosaurs, reports Ashley Piccone for Wyoming Public Radio. The findings, published last month in the journal *Terra Nova*, could provide a new line of evidence that dinosaurs may have undertaken long overland migrations.

Among her samples, she spotted something unexpected. Discovered near Wyoming's Bighorn Basin in a geologic feature called the Morrison formation,

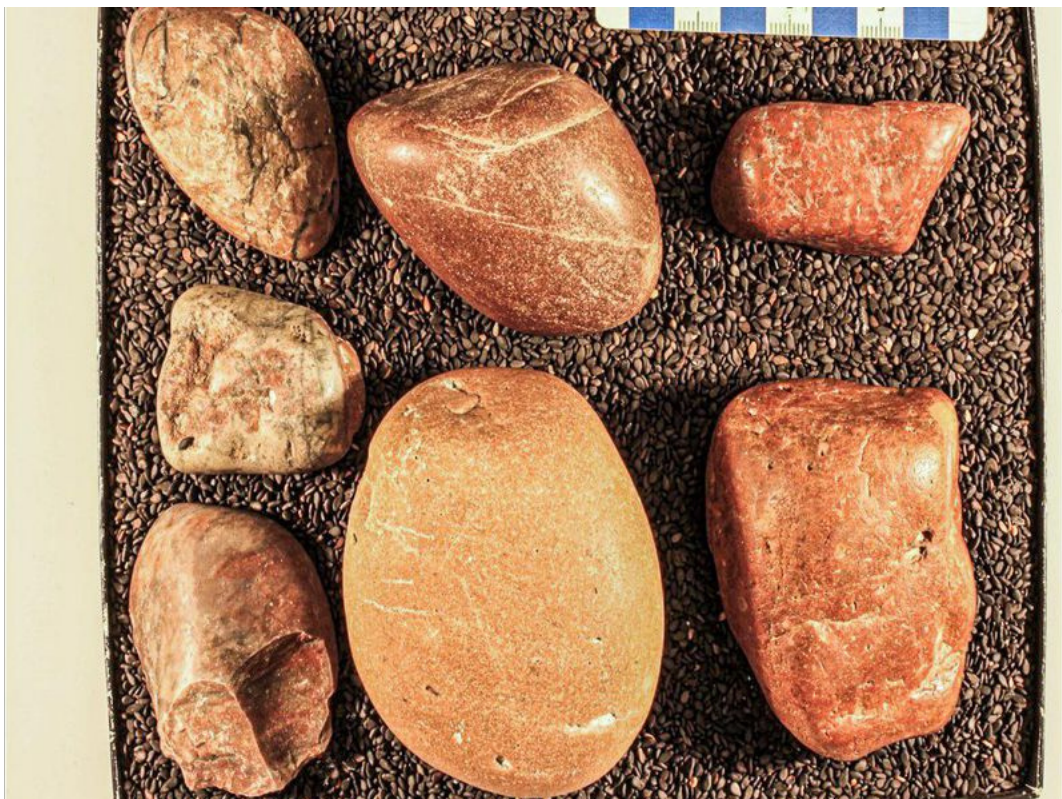
researchers say these smooth, fist-sized rocks are gastroliths, which are rocks swallowed by dinosaurs—and some modern birds and reptiles—that may help grind up fibrous food.

The zircon tests suggested the rocks date to the late Jurassic roughly 150 million years ago and that they appear to have originated some 620 miles east.

This is an excerpted portion of the article.

Read the entire article here at SmithsonianMag.com

Some 150 million years ago, prehistoric plant-eaters may have carried the rocks in their bellies to aid digestion



The Most Colorful Gemstones On Earth

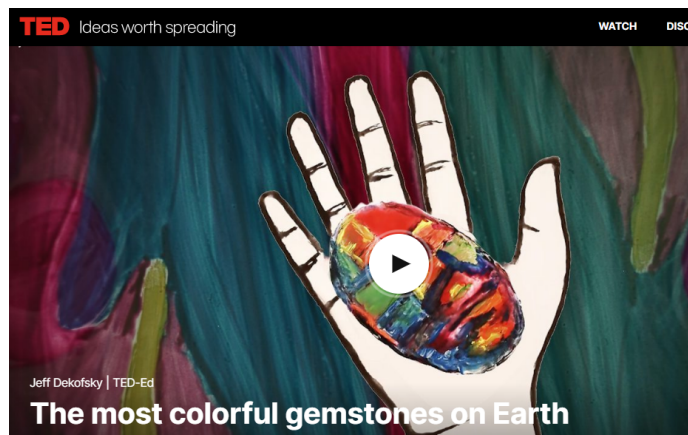
This is a TED Talk. If you have never watched a TED Talk, they are short-form presentations by many varied experts. Many talks are 5-20 minutes.

In November 1986, Australian miners climbed Lunatic Hill and bored 20 meters into the Earth. They were rewarded with a fist-sized, record breaking gemstone, which they named the Hailey's Comet opal. Thanks to a characteristic called "play of color," no two opals look the same.

So what causes these vibrant displays?

Jeff Dekofsky digs into the rock's shimmering, dancing displays of light.

This is a link to the Ted Talk. Click on the graphic below. Sit back and enjoy!



Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Our monthly club meeting is held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Club, 3357 Susan Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34606, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM



www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

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Advertisers Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the Rock Talk and our website. The club can use the monthly income. Both the Rock Talk and our website have more exposure than only club members

Contact club treasure Janet Wheeler: ceegirl@tampabay.rr.com or send to: Withlacoochee Rockhounds, PO Box 5634, Spring Hill, FL 34811-5634

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Purpose

We are a non-profit organization whose purpose is to foster interest and promote knowledge of minerals, gems, fossils, lapidary arts, and earth sciences, through regular meetings, informative programs, workshops, and field trips. PLUS, our annual gem, mineral and jewelry show.

Membership is open to anyone sharing such interests.

Dues

Dues are \$25.00 annually for adults, and \$5.00 for children under 18 years of age.

Club Meeting Location and time

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center, 3357 Susan Dr in Spring Hill. The meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM

2021 Club Officers and Appointees

President	Judith Birx	352.587.1702	judithbirx@hotmail.com
Vice President	Mark Moore	352.586.9607	markles2021@gmail.com
Secretary	Melodye Steverson	352.683.9496	melodye@designsbymelodye.com
Treasurer	Janet Wheeler	727.938.3644	ceegirl@tampabay.rr.com
Rock Talk Editor	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com
Club Webmaster	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com
Mailing Reporter	Janet Wheeler	727.938.3644	ceegirl@tampabay.rr.com
Gem Bag Coordinator	Gloria DuPont	352.848.5199	ddupont@tampabay.rr.com
Audio/Visual Coordinator	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Judith Birx (President)	Mark Moore (Vice President)	Melodye Steverson (Secretary)	Janet Wheeler (Treasurer)
Roberta Oldread (2020)	Lynn Walters (2021)	Ginny Steverson (2021)	Michael Steverson (2021 appointed)
			Ralph Barber (Past President)

Help Save William Holland School

For those of you that have not heard, the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts, aka William Holland Retreat, has decided to cancel their entire 2021 season due to the pandemic.

They plan to re-open for the 2022 season.

This school has meant a lot to many of our members over the years and now they are struggling to maintain their building and grounds without their normal revenue stream from students. If you're interested in helping, they have an auction every Tuesday and a sale on Wednesday. You can get slabs, cabochons, findings, tools, books and completed jewelry as well. These are on their Facebook pages. Just look up William Holland School on Facebook and I'm sure you can find them. They also offer videos of their teachers doing demos and classes, so you can learn from the site as well!

You can help the school and get great stuff at a good price at the same time. Check it out!



Bench Tips from Brad Smith

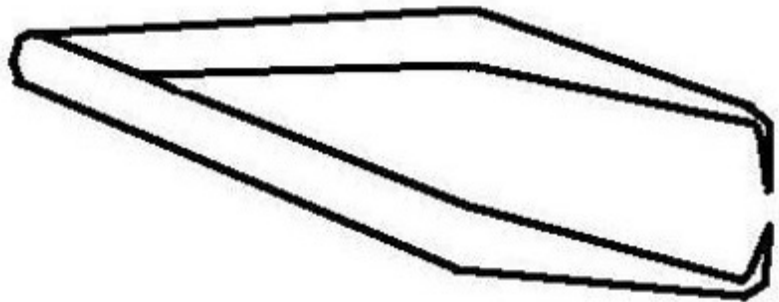
Brad Smith's *Bench Tips* are a monthly feature of Rock Talk

FIND THE BALANCE POINT

With odd-shaped pendants or earrings it's often difficult to find the right place to attach a bail or loop so that the piece is balanced and hangs straight.

A quick way to make a tool for this is to modify a set of tweezers. Any set of tweezers will work. Spread the tips, sharpen them with a file, and bend the tips at a right angle to point towards each other.

To use the tool, suspend the pendant or earring between two sharp points to see how it will hang.



DRILL BREAKAGE

Using a small drill is difficult for a beginner, especially if it is hand held in a flexshaft or Dremel. They are easily broken if you push too hard or if you tilt the drill while it's in the hole.

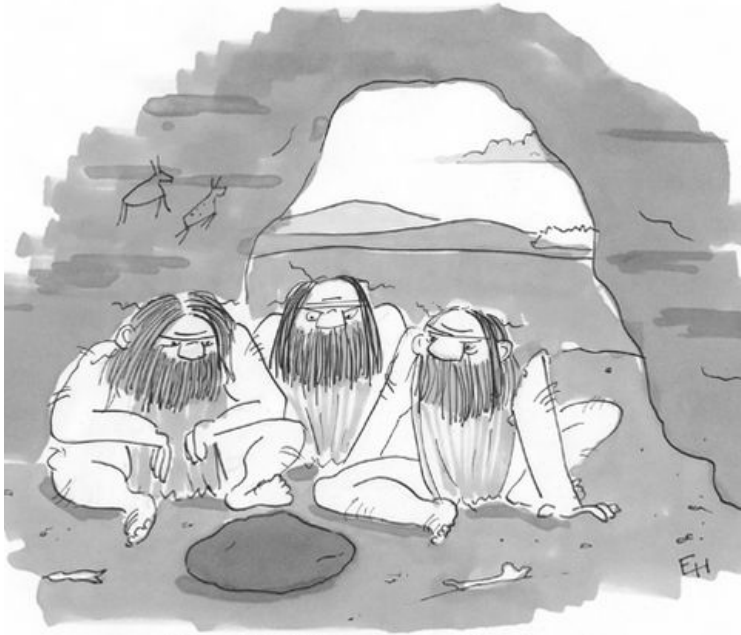
Most problems, however, are the result of buying cheap drills that suffer from poor quality steel and/or inaccurately ground cutting edges. A good drill from jewelry supply companies is well worth the price.

Remember that drilling always goes easier with lubrication. A little wax or oil is all you need. Almost anything will work - Three and One, beeswax, mineral oil, injection wax, car oil, olive oil, or one of the commercial cutting waxes. The lubricant helps to move chips out of the hole and reduces friction of the drill against the side of the hole, keeping the drill cooler.

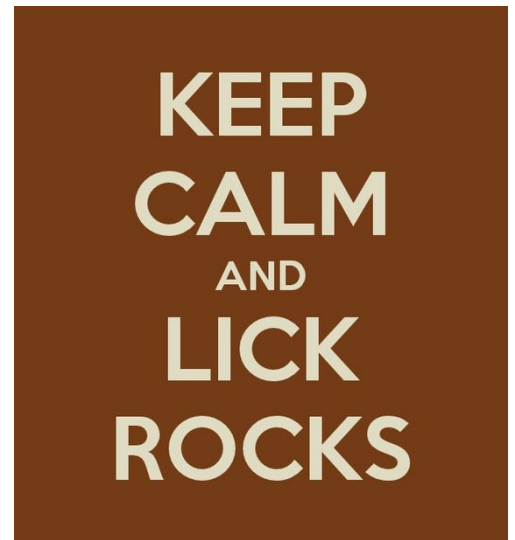
Learn New Skills with Brad's "How To Do It" Books

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

Rock Talk Funny Papers

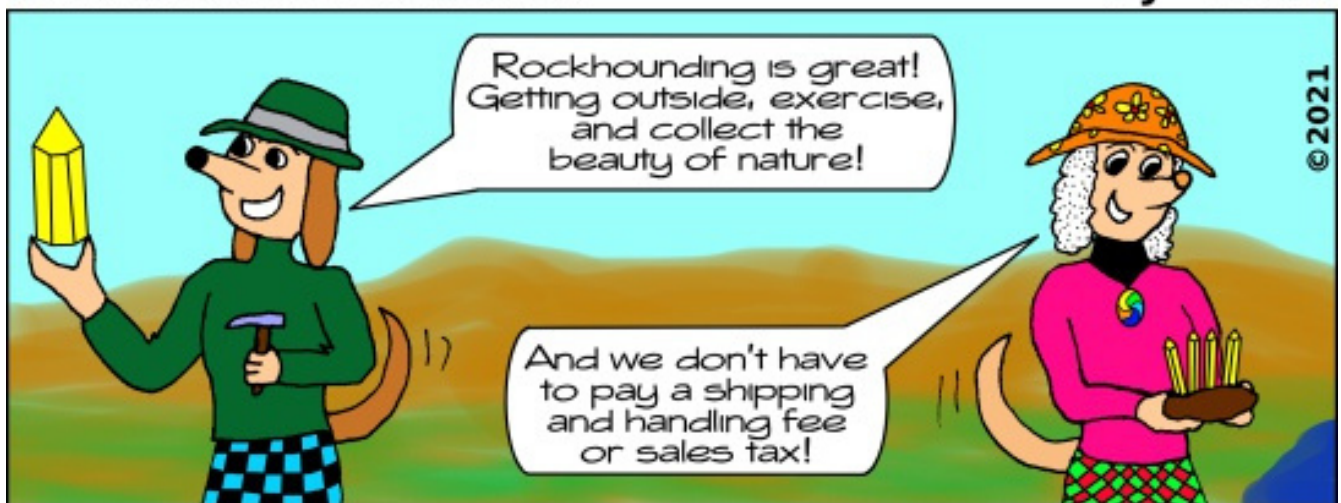


The First Rockhounds Meeting



Mr. & Mrs. Rockhound

by KAM





From The Editor

Hello to all Withlacoochee Rockhounds

It is I, your friendly neighborhood editor again.

If you would like to place a business card ad in the newsletter, please feel free to contact me, and we'll get you added to next available issue.

Additionally, if any of you have not received your newsletter or are not receiving my e-mail blasts (meetings, rock sales, etc.), *please* check your spam folder. If you still are not receiving them, please contact me and let's make sure I have your correct e-mail address.

As noted in previous issues of Rock Talk, I have created for the club a Google My Business account. Doing this, when someone searches for "lapidary clubs near me", or "rockhounds near me", we will come up in their search. Now that this is live, if you would, please search for "Withlacoochee Rockhounds", and when you see our listing to the right side of the page in Google, please use the "Write a Review" link and give the club a good review. It helps with search engine results. Which means more people find us, and we hopefully acquire new members. It's a win-win!

As you will have seen in your e-mail regarding the next club meeting, and in the Presidents Message, facemasks are no longer optional....they are required. We are following the latest CDC guidelines, and the CDC is advising that vaccinated AND non-vaccinated individuals wear facemasks when gathering indoors. We are wanting to keep everyone COVID-free. So, PLEASE wear your mask when you are attending the meeting.

Our club is being updated and getting better every day, and we now have the new logo we spoke of in previous newsletters. I will be incorporating it into other club documents. In addition, we are researching how soon we can also have patches created with the new logo. With that new logo, I have created new t-shirts, and a tote bag for the club. As with the present shirts, these shirts are available on Amazon. I sent out an e-mail recently with the link to the new merch. You may also find the new shirts on our club website, on the [Club T-Shirts page](#). Get yourself some new club gear to wear! Look around the meeting, you will probably see a member wearing our new club gear!

Our Board would like our members to come up with suggestions for Programs to be presented at our monthly meetings. What would you like to see? What would you like to learn? What would you like to know? Is there something you'd like to teach or present? You can help our club expand it's educational repertoire. We'd love to hear from you all.
Contact any Board member or bring your written suggestions to a meeting.

Rock On!!!

Club Phone Number - 352.587.2714

Warning to Withlacoochee Rockhound Members

*During the last several months, illicit requests
have been sent to members of various clubs in the US,
including the Withlacoochee Rockhounds, asking members
to purchase gift cards that would be used as donations to
various organizations.*

These are SCAMS.

*Be advised that our club has never and will never ask
members to buy gift cards or provide any form of
monetary funds to anyone or any organization by
phone call, email, or any other method of communication.*